



## Good News from Parks and Recreation January 2014



### ***Parks and Recreation Resources***

Parks and Recreation website: <http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/index.cfm>

Parks and Recreation Master Plan - [http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/master\\_plan.cfm](http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/master_plan.cfm)

Trail and Bikeway Plan - [http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/trail\\_bikeway\\_master\\_plan.cfm](http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/trail_bikeway_master_plan.cfm)

DNR 10/25 Parks and Trails Legacy Plan - <http://www.legacy.leg.mn/funds/parks-trails-fund/plan>

Sign up for all **Parks and Recreation press releases** and other City announcements at <http://www.duluthmn.gov/>

- click the yellow button on the left that says "Subscribe via E-mail".

**Like us on Facebook:** see the blue Facebook icon on our website:

<http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/>

- or find us on Facebook at DuluthParksMN

Sign up for the City Twitter account at <http://www.duluthmn.gov/>

Find information about our beaches at <http://www.parkpointbeach.org/index.html>

## *Recreation and Special Events*

### **Parents and Pre-school Children Invited to Participate in Play Gym at Duluth Heights**

Play Gym continues every Wednesday from 9:30-11:30. This is an excellent opportunity to give your little one room to run off steam and interact with others.



**WINTER SKATING PARTIES**  
**2013-14 • DULUTH, MINNESOTA**

- ▶ Sunday, December 1 AMSOIL ARENA ..... 3:00-5:00 PM  
SKATE WITH THE BULLDOGS DAY!
- ▶ Sunday, December 22 DECC ..... 3:00-5:00 PM
- ▶ Sunday, January 26 DECC ..... 3:00-5:00 PM
- ▶ Sunday, February 23 AMSOIL ARENA ..... 3:00-5:00 PM

All Skating Parties are FREE!  
Bring your own skates • No tag or skating fast  
No chairs, sticks, pucks or shoes on the ice  
Prizes for kids • Music provided  
Kids 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult



It is time to get those ice skates sharpened and head down to the DECC for the annual Parks and Recreation skating parties. Join us for this great family-friendly event!

The skating parties will be held in the DECC Arena or the AMSOIL Arena.

Skaters can enjoy music provided by Shelly's Mobile Music Machine. Youth can enter for door prizes.

DECC concessions will also be open during this time period.

Skating parties are FREE and open to all ages. Kids under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

**\*\* Participants need to bring their own skates.**

# Free Open Skating at Heritage Sports Center



**School Release Days:**  
12:30-3:30  
Friday, Oct 18th  
Tuesday, January 21st  
Friday, May 16"

**December Holiday Break:**  
Mon. 12/23 2-4  
Thurs. 12/26 9:30-11:30  
Fri. 12/27 9:30-11:30  
Mon. 12/30 2-4  
Tues. 12/31 2-4

**Mid-Winter Holiday Break:**  
Feb. 17th - 21, M-F, 2-4

**Spring Break:**  
April 7-11, M-F, 2-4

**Summer KICK-OFF:**  
June 6th, Friday, 12-4

120 South 30th Avenue West  
Sponsored by City of Duluth Parks and Recreation

**EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING, 6:30 - 8:00**  
**WHEN SCHOOL IS IN SESSION**

\* SPECIAL EVENTS TO HONOR HALLOWEEN, T-GIVING, CHRISTMAS, VALENTINES DAY, SPRING FLING



## December Holiday Skating Parties

On December 18<sup>th</sup>, at the **Heritage Center**, during our regular Open Skate from 6:00-8:00 PM, the Boys & Girls Club, Duluth Children's Museum and Heritage Staff helped Parks and Recreation staff implement fun activities, with a little help from Michael's Craft Stores. Our Volunteer Coordinator was able to enlist the help of seven volunteers. We had crafts, cookies, winter science experiments, and, of course, a nice long visit from Santa and Rudolf, who both skated with over 150 participants.

On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, our second **Skating Party** was held at the DECC. The Duluth Figure Skating Club was on hand to answer questions, show people about their program and give away a free "Learn to Skate" class series. The Live DJ spun his magic and there were free prizes for just about all children present. The next Skating Party will be on Sunday, January 26th.

## Bayfront Skating

The **Bayfront Family Center rink** was made early, due to the cold snap in November, and skating has been available since the beginning of the Holiday Season. Extra hours at both the Heritage Sports Center and Bayfront Family Center were made available to all over the Holiday Season.

Regular hours for the Bayfront Family Center Warming House are Monday-Friday, 4:00-8:00 PM; Saturday 1:00-8:00 PM, Sundays 1:00-5:00 PM. Sleds, snowshoes and small cross country skis are available for kids to try with their parents' supervision and Friday evening outside fires and free hot chocolate will be available while it lasts.

**Outdoor skating rinks are doing well. There are many available this winter across the City:**

We thank all the Hockey organizations and community volunteers for providing these skating opportunities. With the Parks Fund, City staff have been able to provide more assistance to community groups for making and maintaining ice.

Visit the City of Duluth website for an interactive map of the skating rinks:

[http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/skating\\_rinks/index.cfm](http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/skating_rinks/index.cfm)

**Stowe Skating Rink**

**Filmore & 101<sup>st</sup>**

The City is maintaining the skating rink at Stowe this year. There is no building access.

**Morgan Park Skating Rink**

**1242 88<sup>th</sup> Ave W**

The Morgan Park skating rink hours of operation are Monday – Friday 5:00PM – 9:00PM, Saturday and Sunday Noon– 8:00PM.

**Norton Park Skating Rink**

**Coleman & 81<sup>st</sup> Ave W**

Norton Park rink is maintained by residents for public use, there are no regular open hours for the building.

**Memorial Park Skating Rink**

**5315 Grand Ave**

The City is maintaining the skating rink at Memorial this year. There is no building access.

**Merritt Skating Rink**

**4017 W 7<sup>th</sup> St**

The Merritt skating rink is open Tuesdays 5:30PM-7:30PM, Thursdays 7:00PM-9:00PM and some other days that are unscheduled.

**Piedmont Skating Rink**

**2302 W 23<sup>rd</sup> St**

The Piedmont skating rink is open Monday-Friday 5:00PM-8:30PM, Saturday and School Holidays 12:00-8:00 PM and Sunday 1:00PM-5:00PM.

**Duluth Heights Skating Rink**

**33 W Mulberry St**

The Duluth Heights skating rink is open Monday-Friday 5:30PM-8:30PM, Saturday 12:00-4:00PM and Holiday Breaks Monday-Friday Noon-9:00PM. Hours for the Holiday break are extended, though vary widely.

**Bayfront Skating Rink**

**Railroad St and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave W**

Bayfront is open Monday-Friday 4:00 PM-8:00 PM, Saturday/School Holidays 1:00PM-8:00PM, Sunday 1:00PM-5:00PM.

**Lafayette Skating Rink**

**3026 Minnesota Ave**

Lafayette skating rink is maintained by residents for public use, there are no regular open hours for the building.

**Lower Chester Skating Rink**

**1417 E 5<sup>th</sup> St**

The Lower Chester skating rink hours are Monday-Friday 4:00PM-9:00PM, Saturday Noon-9pm, Sunday Noon-6pm. Holiday and School Break days are usually Noon-9pm

**Woodland Skating Rink****3211 Allendale Ave**

The Woodland skating rink hours are Monday-Friday 5:00PM-9:00PM and Saturday and Sunday 11:30AM-5:30PM. Hours for the Holiday break are extended, though vary widely.

**Portman Skating Rink****4601 McCulloch St**

Portman's skating rink hours are Monday-Friday 5:30PM – 8:30PM, Saturday 11:00AM - 8:00PM and Sunday 11:00AM - 5:00PM. During the holiday break and mid-winter break hours are Monday - Friday 11:00AM - 9:00PM and Saturday and Sunday 11:00AM-5:00PM.

\*\*\* ALL rink hours listed are dependent on Volunteer supervision and...the Weather!

Updated information for many rinks with Hockey Associations can often be found at <http://www.duluthhockey.com/> --- choose the "Associations" tab.

**Make your 2014 Park Reservation Now**

It may be hard to think about doing any sort of outdoor event as we sit in the "deep freeze" of winter. But the warmer weather will be here before we know it, along with the season of outdoor events. Prime dates in many of our beautiful City of Duluth parks fill up quickly, so the first step in event planning needs to be the reservation. All events to include 40 or more people require a permit. But to secure the park for your personal use, a permit is recommended for all size events. Without one, there is risk of another permitted event at the park at the same time. Secondly, whoever arrives first has the opportunity to occupy the pavilions and other favored areas. Only with a permit can you technically ask someone to move. There are three types of permits available, depending on your use of the park.

Special Event Permits – A special event is one that is: 1) open to the public, and/or, 2) charges an admission or registration fee. To be held in a City of Duluth park, the proper permit is required. Contact Gail at [gwalkowiak@duluthmn.gov](mailto:gwalkowiak@duluthmn.gov) or call 218.730.4306 to secure a permit for your special event.

Private Event Permits – Private events are "By Invitation Only": 1) from a club or organization membership, and/or, 2) a personal invitation from a permit holder. This includes company or church picnics, birthday parties and graduation parties, but excludes weddings, which require a separate permit. Contact Terri at [tcastonguay@duluthmn.gov](mailto:tcastonguay@duluthmn.gov) or call 218.730.4320 for a Private Event Permit.

Wedding Event Permits – A wedding event is one that is: 1) a wedding ceremony, 2) a wedding rehearsal, or, 3) a wedding ceremony and picnic reception combined (not to include alcohol, live music, or dancing). Formal wedding receptions serving alcohol and having live music or DJ services are not allowed. Contact Amy at [agodsell@duluthmn.gov](mailto:agodsell@duluthmn.gov) or call 218.730.4330 for more information.

Event permit guides for each of these are available online at [www.duluthmn.gov/parks/index.cfm](http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/index.cfm) or by contacting the appropriate staff listed above.



# *Trails Update*

## **Make Plans to Attend Winter Trails Day on Saturday, January 11th**

The public is invited to attend Winter Trails Day at Spirit Mountain Nordic Center. This event is part of the National Winter Trails Day celebration, which offers children and adults new to snow sports the chance to try cross country skiing for free, and to discover the great fitness and social benefits with this fun winter sport.

We encourage all those interested in trying out cross-country skiing to attend! Here are the details:

- Location: Spirit Mountain Nordic Chalet – 9525 West Skyline Parkway (about ½ mile past the downhill area)
- Time: Lessons at 10:00 am and 12:30 pm, Chalet open 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- The event is free and open to all, but you must register by January 10th for one of the two time slots.
- What to bring? Ski equipment, if you have it. Free rentals will be available
- Instruction will be offered in classic skiing (diagonal stride) which is the technique we recommend learning first.

Already know how to ski? Come check out the Spirit XC trails and have some hot chocolate and granola bars around a bonfire — bring the whole family! Register for the lessons online through the DXC website [www.duluthxc.com](http://www.duluthxc.com). If you aren't taking lessons, there is no need to register.

## **New CC Ski Maps on the Trails**

While you are out enjoying the ski trails, check out the new maps developed by Duluth Cross Country Ski Club volunteers Gary Larson and John Ipsen. The maps feature color coded levels of difficulty and topographic lines. There is contact info on each map and we'd love to get your feedback. Email: [jgibbs@duluthmn.gov](mailto:jgibbs@duluthmn.gov)

## **Hiking and Biking on City Cross Country Ski Trails**

Duluth Parks and Recreation reminds the public that hiking and winter bikes (commonly called "Fat" bikes) on City cross country ski trails is **prohibited**. "Fat" bikes, so-called for their 4-inch tires, are growing in popularity. Where can Fat bikers ride? All of the mountain bike trails in Duluth are open and Hartley's trails are in particular are in great shape for biking. Riding is also possible on the Lakewalk, Western Waterfront Trail, Skyline Parkway east and west where they are closed to traffic, and the Seven Bridges Road. More information is available at [www.coggs.com](http://www.coggs.com).

Only cross country skiers are allowed on our cross country ski trails. Your cooperation is appreciated.

The City of Duluth has 55 kilometers of skiing on six cross country ski trails. The trails provide a great skiing experience for every level of skier. Maps and brochures for each trail are available at the Duluth Parks and Recreation office at City Hall (Ground Floor, 411 West 1st Street) or online at [www.duluthmn.gov/parks](http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks).

A reminder: in order to help maintain good skiing conditions, all cross country skiers are requested to follow good trail etiquette:

- Ski in indicated direction
- Leave pets at home
- Hikers, bikers and dogs are not allowed on groomed ski trails.
- Try to fill any holes and smooth track if you should fall.

For information on the condition of City of Duluth Trails, call the Cross Country Ski Trail Hot Line at 218-730-4321 or go to the Parks Facebook page or go to [www.Skinnyski.com](http://www.Skinnyski.com)

## ***Senior Services and Events***

For more information about senior recreation activities, contact (218) 730-4310

### **Evergreen Senior Community Center: 5830 Grand Avenue**

AARP Defensive Driving Classes

Refreshers-January 14<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-5:00 pm

Call 218-730-4319

Bingo: Thursdays at 12:30 pm

### **Portman Senior Community Center: 4601 McCulloch Street**

AARP Defensive Driving Class

Refresher-January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1:00-5:00 pm

Call 218-730-4319

Bingo: Monday & Friday at 12:30 pm

### **Morgan Park Senior Center Center- 1242 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue West**

Bingo: Wednesdays 12:30 pm

At all three centers - upcoming vision program dates - call 218-730-4310 more information.

## ***Volunteer Events and Information***

**Duluth Invasive Species Council:** *Working to educate the community, to eradicate invasive plant populations, and to restore habitats to their native roots.*

Individuals interested in getting involved in the Duluth Invasive Species Council are encouraged to email Cheryl Skafte at [cskafte@duluthmn.gov](mailto:cskafte@duluthmn.gov) to learn more. Volunteers are currently needed to help develop community education materials and signage.

**Clean and Green:** *Keeping Duluth beautiful through clean-up and green-up projects.*

Efforts to organize Clean and Green 2014 will soon be under way. Start thinking about spring by signing your family, organization or group up for a clean-up! Email Cheryl Skafte at [cskafte@duluthmn.gov](mailto:cskafte@duluthmn.gov) for more information.

**Edible Duluth:** *Promoting edible landscaping and community gardening.*

The Duluth Public Library is kicking off their new Seed Lending Library on Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1PM-4PM. During its first growing season in 2014, the Duluth Public Seed Lending Library will offer seeds for garden favorites including varieties of tomatoes, peppers, peas and the "One Vegetable One Community" Vegetable of the Year - beans. These initial seed types were chosen based on their ease of seed saving for beginners. Varieties of heirloom, open-pollinated seeds best suited for our Northern growing season will be selected with support from the Duluth Community Garden Program, Master Gardeners, and other seed saving expertise. Participants will have access to borrowing up to ten packets containing 10 seeds. Learn more at <http://www.duluth.lib.mn.us/programs-events/duluth-public-seed-lending-library/>.

**Do You Like to Ice Skate?**

Volunteers who are comfortable on the ice are needed to provide general assistance during the winter season at Bayfront and the Heritage Center. Schedules are flexible. Families and groups are invited to volunteer together. To schedule a volunteer time, please contact Cheryl Skafte at [cskafte@duluthmn.gov](mailto:cskafte@duluthmn.gov) or 218-730-4334

## *Outdoor Recreation Opportunities*

**Chester Bowl Downhill Skiing**

Located in the heart of Duluth at 1800 East Skyline Parkway, Chester Bowl Ski Hill offers a wide variety of downhill skiing experiences. Daily lift tickets for all ages are \$5.25/per day. Besides being affordable, Chester Bowl is a great place to learn how to downhill ski for people of all ages. For more information go to <http://www.chesterbowl.org>

**Cross-Country Ski Trails**

**Chester Bowl Ski Trail** (Skate/Classic)

**Access:** 1800 E Skyline Parkway

**Length:** 2.8K

**Level of Difficulty:** Advanced

**Hartley Ski Trail** (Double Tracked Classic)

**Access:** 3001 Woodland Ave

**Length:** 5.3K

**Level of Difficulty:** Intermediate

**Lester-Amity Ski Trail** (Skate/Classic)

**Access:** lower Seven Bridges Rd or E Superior St & Lester River Rd

**Length:** 11K/4.3K Lighted Ski Trail

**Level of Difficulty:** Beginner to Advanced



### **Lester Park Golf Course** (Skate/ Skijoring)

**Access:** 1860 Lester River Rd

**Length:** 4K

**Level of Difficulty:** Beginner

### **Magney-Snively Ski Trail** (Skate/ Classic)

**Access:** 9758 W Skyline Parkway

**Length:** 13.2K

**Level of Difficulty:** Intermediate to Advanced

### **Piedmont Ski Trail** (1K Skate/Classic; 4.5K Double Tracked Classic)

**Access:** 2225 Hutchinson Rd

**Length:** 1K/4.5K

**Level of Difficulty:** Beginner to Advanced

### **Spirit Mountain Ski Trail** (Skate/Classic; does not require a DNR Ski Pass)

**Access:** 9758 W Skyline Parkway

**Length:** 16.7K/1K Lighted Ski Trail

**Level of Difficulty:** Beginner to Advanced

*Visit [spiritmt.com](http://spiritmt.com) for maps and more information on winter sport activities.*

For more information, call the City of Duluth Winter Ski Trail Hotline at (218) 730-4321. Or visit [www.duluthxc.com](http://www.duluthxc.com) for ski trail maps, grooming updates, and calendar of events. A Minnesota Ski Pass (\$6/daily or \$20/annual) is required for skiers age 16+ on City of Duluth ski trails. Get your pass by calling 888-665-4236 or online at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/licenses/skipass/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/licenses/skipass/index.html). Passes are also available at any DNR license outlet.

### **Snowmobile Trails**

For more snowmobile trail information and maps, visit [www.snowmobiletrails.com/local.htm](http://www.snowmobiletrails.com/local.htm)

### **Duluth Cross Town Trail** - West Section – 33 miles

Trail access at Hwy 23 and 131<sup>st</sup> Avenue West or Grand Avenue and 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue West

Maintained by Over the Hill Night Riders Snowmobile Club

### **Duluth Cross Town Trail** - East Section – 2 miles

Trail access at 61<sup>st</sup> Avenue East and Lester River Road

Maintained by Drift Toppers Snowmobile Club

### **Mountain Biking in Duluth**

Mountain biking in Duluth is a fun and challenging adventure. We currently have 30 miles of single-track biking in Duluth with trails located at Piedmont, Hartley Park, Brewer Park, Spirit Mountain, and Lester Park. Mont du Lac Recreation Area also has mountain bike trails. To download a mountain bike trail map go to the COGGS (Cyclists of Gitchee Gummi Shores) website at <http://www.coggs.com/trails.php>

### **Take a Hike! On Duluth's City Trails**

- Chester Park Trails - 1800 East Skyline Parkway
- Congdon Park Trails - 32nd Ave East and Superior Street
- Grassy Point Trail - end of Leisure Street
- Hartley Park Trails - 3001 Woodland Ave
- Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve - 4000 E Skyline Parkway
- Kingsbury Creek Trail - Dead end of Waseca Street
- Lakewalk - Canal Park to Brighton Beach
- Lester Park Trail - 60th Ave East and Superior Street
- Lincoln Park Trail - Lincoln Park Drive and West 3rd Street
- Magney-Snively Trail - 1/4 mi west 100 Ave West and Skyline Parkway
- Park Point Trail - end of Minnesota Ave
- Piedmont Trail - Adirondack and Hutchinson Rd
- Western Waterfront Trail - 7300 block off Grand Ave/Pulaski St

### **Skateboard Park at Wheeler Field Athletic Complex**

The skateboard park is open for use 7 days a week, weather permitting, until 10 pm. Skateboarders, in-line skaters, and bikers are all welcome. Indoor vending machines and bathrooms are available. Deck observation and seating area are also available.

**Location:** The skateboard park: 35th Avenue West and Grand Avenue. Skate ramps are also located at Gary New Duluth, Keene Creek Park, Midtown Park, and the Depot parking lot.

### **Disc Golf Course**

People wanting to play disc golf can use the nine basket course at Miller Creek Disc Golf Course by Lake Superior College (2101 Trinity Rd) and a nine basket course at the Morgan Park Community Recreation Center (1242 88<sup>th</sup> Ave W).

### **Playgrounds**

Bayfront Festival Park / Playfront Playground--- South 5th Ave W & RR St

Blackmer --- Beverly St & 84th Ave W

Cascade --- 6th St & 1st Ave W

Central Hillside --- Lake Ave & 4th St

Chester Bowl --- 1800 E Skyline Parkway

Duluth Heights --- 33 W Mulberry St

Endion --- 1602 E 2nd St

Fairmont --- 72nd Ave W & Grand

Fond du Lac --- 131st Ave W & 5th St

Franklin --- 12th St & Minnesota Ave

Grant --- 901 E 11th St

Grosvenor Square --- Pitt & 49th Ave E

Harrison --- 3002 W 3rd St

Hillside Sport Center --- 408 E 8th St

Irving --- 20 S 57th Ave W

Keene Creek --- Bristol St & 63rd Ave W

Lafayette --- 3026 Minnesota Ave

Lester --- 61st Ave E & Superior St

Lilliput --- 315 E 5th St

Lincoln --- 25th Ave W & 5th St

Memorial --- 5315 Grand Ave  
Merritt --- 4017 W 7th St  
Morgan Park --- 1242-88th Ave W  
Norton Park --- Coleman & 81st Ave W  
Observation --- 914 W 3rd St  
Park Point --- 45th St & Minnesota Ave  
Piedmont --- 2302 W 23rd St  
Portland Square --- 4th St & 10th Ave E  
Portman --- 4601 McCulloch St  
Riverside --- 55 Cato St  
Washington Square --- Superior St & 43rd Ave E  
Wheeler Field --- 35th Ave W & Grand Ave  
Woodland --- 3211 Allendale Ave

Parks and Recreation can provide additional information concerning recreational activities, maps, and updated schedules for special activities by going to our website at [www.duluthmn.gov/parks](http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks) Where listed, please use the phone numbers or call the Parks and Recreation office at 218-730-4300.

***Enjoy our fantastic parks, playgrounds,  
and outdoor spaces!***